

PS: The Omen

(still loves you)

Being the final issue of the academic year; populated by a bunch of cranks, fools, and other miscellaneous refuse of society; Anno Domini 2010.

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For the eighth issue in the 34th Volume of the Omen on GO HOME NOW in the Year of our Lord 2010

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Layout & Editing STAFF

Stephen Morton	Gone.
Evan Silberman	Not Gone.
Margaret McGrew	Not Gone.
Ian McEwen	Sucker.
David Axel Kurtz	Gone.
Daniel Eareckson	Gone.
Julia Mattes	Gone.
Panda	Never Leaving.
Tatiana Soutar	Not Gone.

omen.hampshire.edu

To Submit:

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, semaphore or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire.edu.

Front cover by
Stephen Morton

Layout by
Stephen Morton

Back cover by
Flicker user joeshlabotnik

EDITORIAL

Done.

by Stephen Morton

I've been here a long time. Six years. Or five, depending on how you count. I started in the fall of 2004, I'm graduating the spring of 2010, and I've been at Hampshire for 10 of those 12 semesters. I've been with the Omen for nearly as long: I started coming to layout regularly since the spring of 2005, my second semester here. I've submitted a lot of complete garbage in that time. The pieces I'm most proud of have been informational. There have been a couple times when I've felt like something that happened didn't get talked about as much as it should have been, so I wrote about what happened and why I thought it was worth noting. When I've written fiction, or even opinion pieces really, it's gone poorly.

I was always just flaky enough that there was someone more responsible around, so I never became editor, or a signer, or even laid out an issue, until now. The previous Omen came and went while I was still too busy with Div III to write anything for it. But I didn't want to leave here without writing my parting shot, which is why this issue exists now. It feels good to be doing this, and I wish I could have taken a more active role in the Omen before now.

I've changed a lot in six years. Some of this is because

of Hampshire, some of it because of the Omen, and some of it had nothing to do with any of that. You can't not change over six years, but I think I've definitely changed more than was obligatory. When I got to Hampshire, I didn't really know how to interact with people. I still don't, but I can fake it better these days. I've known a lot of people who I eventually realized I didn't really know at all. I don't think very many people here have really known me.

That's part of why I wanted to do this. I wanted to do something for Hampshire before I left. I wanted something with my name on it, something to mark that I'd been here, even if that something is as ephemeral as an issue of the Omen, put out after a large number of students aren't on campus anymore. It will at least live on forever in the Omen archives, as long as subsequent editors don't screw the pooch entirely.

Being part of the Omen taught me a lot about this school, and how it works. Every other week, for most of my college career, I sat in the Omen office and talked with people engaged in the workings of this place. I didn't come out of that bitter, like most people. I think Hampshire is still a great school, but I also take seriously the

Policy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spell-

checking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

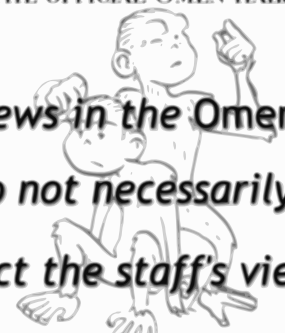
The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Friday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Fridays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.

THE OFFICIAL OMEN HAIKU:

Views in the Omen (5)

Do not necessarily (7)

Reflect the staff's views (5)



charge that Hampshire is an experimenting rather than experimental college. I think that part of what this means is that Hampshire must continually reinvent itself, and that the students of this school must constantly fight to be at the front of that reinvention. The only revolution worth fighting is the one that never ends. I think that if there wasn't anything for students to get angry about anymore, the school would be stagnant. That shouldn't happen.

There are problems of course. The administration will always have different interests and concerns from those of the students, and that's not a bad thing. That forces reconciliation, and the result is stronger for being the synthesis of different points of view. This process will never be smooth. It can't be. But, in starts and stops, it will move forward, and the school will continue.

The single largest problem facing this school is the lack of institutional memory. Hampshire is structured such that students don't remember what came before. Older students move to the mods and disappear, and their memory is lost before they even graduate, because there is no commons at Hampshire. There is no place for older and younger students to meet and talk.

At it's best, I think the Omen helps to fill this void. At it's worst, the Omen is a platform for those voices that are already the loudest. There are many things that the Omen can't be and can't do. The Omen is the opposite of safe space. There are no protections here, and that's a dangerous thing. I used to not understand that, and that meant I didn't understand why many people don't feel comfortable submitting to the Omen.

Now that I do understand that, I know that the Omen can never be the universally accessible publication that it claims to be sometimes. There are larger issues at work here than an open submission policy. I think, however, that the Omen still makes a valuable contribution to discourse at Hampshire. It just can't be the only line of communication, or we're all doomed.

As for this issue of the Omen, most of the submissions are from students who are graduating and leaving here very soon. The exception leads off the issue: a bitter rant from a Hampshire student who graduated last year, here to tell us about why getting out of here isn't so great either.

I'm still not sure that Hampshire was the best choice for me. It was my only choice: I applied to no other college, but now that I'm on this side of the whole thing, I can see where more structure in my education might have been better for me. I probably would have graduated on

time, for one. I would have failed fewer classes, and I'd probably have an easier time getting into grad school, if that's what I end up doing. But I wouldn't go back and change coming here if I could. I wouldn't be the same person that I am now. I don't know who I would be, but I know I couldn't possibly be the same. I'm too informed by this place and by its people for that.

Sometimes it seemed like I might not actually graduate. That I am now I'm grateful for. Hampshire helped me find many things I love doing, but I picked one of them to see me through this whole thing: Astronomy. I did a div III in it, and I'm proud of it, if not all the details:

Using multi-object spectroscopy of H II regions in two nearby galaxies, NGC 3169 and NGC 4725, I perform an analysis of trends in relative oxygen abundance across various important properties of spiral galaxies: rates of star formation, Hubble type, strength of bar, strength of ring, and the galactic environment. Analysis is performed qualitatively using various plots, and quantitatively using both the gradient of the relation between oxygen abundance and radius and the characteristic oxygen abundance of the galaxy. By combining the data I derived with earlier published data from similar studies, I find a possible relation between oxygen abundance and star formation rates, as well as evidence that the presence of a ring increases the gradient of oxygen abundance within a galaxy, regardless of the strength of the ring. I place my results in the context of earlier work.

I'd like to thank various people for seeing me through these past six years. I want to thank my Div III committee: Salman Hameed, Hugh Crowl, and Herb Bernstein for not kicking me out of Hampshire before I pulled my shit together enough to actually do something worthwhile. I'd like to thank Herb in particular for being there to kick my ass for the past four years, give or take. I'd like to thank all the friends who I've met here at Hampshire for being people that I want to keep in touch with as I head out of this place. A non-exhaustive list of particular people who better not drop off the face of the earth anytime soon: Tor, Marco and Alice, Angela, Josh and Flarnie. I'd like to thank my parents for putting up with five years of full tuition at this expensive school, not being sure if I was actually going to graduate at the end of it or not. I'd like to thank Circus, The Omen, and Excalibur for being worth going to. Most of all, I'd like to thank my girlfriend, Margaret, for being awesome enough for me to put up with her for two years now: I love you.

The Omen will always love you all. 🐼

SECTION **LOVE/HATE**

Real Life Sucks

And Cupcakes... Or Why Real Life is Infinitely Inferior to College

By Linnaea Furlong

Seriously, that image of a career you love, making money, with people who care as much about what you do as your Div3 committee or friends, in a community of people you love with similar values and harmony and stuff, ha ha not gonna happen. You're going to go back to living in your parent's basement with people who say a degree in what? and so who's hiring you? about ten minutes after you graduate. And you will be damn grateful when walmart gives you a greeter job. Because it is work.

Ah, work. There's this thing called work where you get up early and do something for less money than you really would like to make, doing something they want you to do while most of the time you'd rather be doing something else. The point of this is to repay the student loans you acquired during your brief stint in paradise. Was it worth it? You decide.

This is assuming, of course, that you can find this elusive thing called a job. Most people join the productively unemployed. This is when you generate countless resumes and throw them down the black hole known as online applications or craigslist jobs. Unless you live with your parents, you will be in a box till you get a job and then you get to eat ramen noodles while sleeping in a room with fourteen other illegal immigrants because it's the only rent you can afford. If they let you share their apartment. Better get a cell phone and call up your local dishwasher.

**Better get a cell
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dishwasher.**

Guess what else, kids? You get to figure out the lovely reason insurance companies reject you and try to find insurance. Which will probably be as much as your rent. Unless you choose to skip insurance and hope for free clinics. However, planned parenthood doesn't treat strep throat. At least not the usual kind...

But what really sucks, is that no one understands you. You're weird and outcast again and your tribe has deserted you. Not necessarily intentionally, but your friends will be at least two states away, possibly two continents. You'll find a few compatriots, but get used to aim and skyping anyone you loved. And nothing is convenient anymore. You know when you used to gripe about your friends living in Prescott while you lived in Enfield. Now you will nostalgically dream about the closeness of food, activities and friends. Damn it was good.

On the bright side, if you find a job, live with your parents, and make enough to save, you can go shiny shiny places. Like New Zealand. Of course this means quitting your job. Spending all your money on the most amazing experiences of your life outside of college. And then show the photos to your parents. Because your parents are the only thing resembling friends and peers within twenty miles of you. And then start job searching again.

And this is real life. Doesn't doing another div three suddenly sound like so much fun? 🤖

Random Things

By Julia Mattes

Random things I remember from my past four years at Hampshire, in no particular order:

- Getting along with both of my roommates
- Living with the same roommate for two years
- People living in hotels and lounges
- Panstless o'clock
- Holding conversations via Open Office Writer or Notepad
- Mod lottery drama
- Awful dentist adventures first year (which included a root canal)
- Absurdly large CSA shares
- Starting a few student groups
- Signing for a bunch of student groups (Alternative Sexuality Collective, FiCom, Feminist United Collective, USELESS Hampshire, CHAOS, MaPSIG...there were others, but I forget them now. Almost Sexperts)
- Being a Sexpert
- Having the most awesome orientees my second year
- Being unable to lead an orientation group my third year because I had mono
- Losing the first month or so of Div III to mono
- Getting my wisdom teeth pulled (which included having the oral surgeon refuse to put me under)
- Helping to start the Electric Velvet Revue
- Founding the Five College Queer Sexuality and Gender Conference
- Feeling like I wasn't queer enough for the QCA
- Being told I'm racist because I'm white
- Action Awareness Week
- Not being able to follow the inanity of Community Council meetings
- Community Council refusing to pass an All-Community Vote about increasing the SAF because it was "too late in the semester to hold an ACV" and then weeks later approving an ACV about using the endowment to fund the graffiti wall because "it's a different kind of All-Community Vote" and "it wouldn't mean students paying more in"
- Being caught in the middle of friend feuds
- Being caught in the middle of friend feuds on FiCom
- Pouring way too much energy into FiCom
- Joining CoCA when drama was going down
- Trying to figure out how to be on FiCom and CoCA at the same time
- Trying to figure out how to be on FiCom and CC at the same time
- Hampshire students consistently rallying for great causes in incredibly improper ways
- Being charged for having a covered smoke detector when I didn't and it taking three months to be refunded
- Only realizing the awesomeness of Cirucs during the last month or so of school
- Staying up to watch the sunrise...a lot
- Farm cats
- Working on the farm
- Going contradancing at Greenfield
- Having people live on our couch
- Subletting during the summer
- Mystery dishes consistently being a problem in mods... and sometimes in dorms
- Living on G2
- Growing up
- People not learning from their mistakes
- Not learning from my mistakes
- Locking my roommate out of our room
- Locking my other roommate out of our room
- Incessantly playing rhythm games (Rock Band, Guitar Hero, DDR, etc)
- Not getting out of my room enough
- Playing 2-player tetris
- Battling with foam swords on the library lawn
- "Theatrical Role Playing" games, in which somebody hid on the top of a trailer out by the farm
- Going to various anime and sci-fi conventions with Hampshire paying
- Trying to reconcile all the sexuality-related stuff I do with all the business-related stuff I do
- Exploring Greenwich my first year after all I had known was Dakin, FPH, and the RCC, and realizing the campus was bigger than I thought
- Being uncertain whether I loved or hated the changes in SAGA
- People ringing the bell at entirely inappropriate time
- First-years ringing the bell
- Being cozy with tea, hot chocolate, cheese, crackers,

and friends, in a double in the dead of Janterm

- Being amused when people complained about the weather in October
- Freaking out up until the last possible second about whether or not I was going to graduate
- My mother sending me strange things in the mail (like coupons for stores that don't exist around here and plastic jewelry)
- Managing to maintain sub-free-ness (not drink or smoke [cigarettes or anything else]) the entire time I was at Hampshire
- Feeling uncomfortable because I am subfree
- Absolutely despising Hampshire Halloween
- Not missing a single Deathfest since I arrived at Hampshire
- Deathfest T-shirts
- DMing for two semesters
- Taking on way too much as soon as I started Div III
- Taking most of my Div II classes at Amherst
- Drastically switching concentrations as I passed into Division III
- Bringing chocolate covered espresso beans to my Division II and III final meetings

- Being unreasonably frightened of the mod areas until I lived there
- Learning to appreciate cuddle puddles
- Learning what polyamory is
- Being underwhelmed when I rang the bell
- Students protesting by parading through living areas and outside the library whilst being obnoxiously loud during the crucial last few days of a lot of people's Div IIIs
- The terrible design flaw of the APL/main gallery
- Not understanding the elevator system on this campus (particularly the RCC/library building thing)
- Being very sad when my older friends graduated and left
- Working at Phys Plant for two summers in a row
- The conditions in Merrill and Prescott being so awful over the summer that they sent me home sick more than once
- Running a signer hoodie design contest, and otherwise being in charge of signer hoodies for spring 2010
- Never submitting anything to the Omen before this 🙄

In My Four Years Here

By Benjamin Oginz

In my four years here, I've never contributed to anything to any group at Hampshire. This is the first and last thing I will ever contribute to a group at Hampshire. In some ways I feel kind of guilty for not becoming more involved with the various organizations on campus, but on the other hand, i was always more of an independent, avoiding groups, happy on my own. But since this is it and I'm about to graduate, I wanted to share an idea with you.

I can only hope that the students I leave behind will make hampshire cool again. Throughout my career at hampshire, there has been an exponential movement of making this school un-cool--by various methods of control and bureaucracy. Departments here never function together and going from one administrative building to the next is like entering another dimension, where they have no knowledge of any other but their own. This makes solving a logistical problem extremely difficult for students. I urge students to protest this ineffective system, speak out, let them know that its not acceptable. Get pissed off!

They say that college is a microcosm of the real world, so you should act like a real person--at least try and pretend to be an adult as much as you can. This means you shouldn't stand for things like that--get angry when this school doesn't give you what you want--when you're caught up in it. I can only hope that hampshire students get more assertive about what they want for themselves. (i'm not talking about student groups who protest for other causes--i'm talking about THIS cause, about our college, making it cool again). Take it from me, don't be so apathetic about school--you can have a lot of fun if you take advantage of the system. I hope that you start groups just for the pizza and funding, because FICOM is taking your money and turning it to shit by giving it to stupid groups who will waste it on kleenex for the student council meetings--start your own and get money, salvage some of the waste by spending it on you and your friends in your group. Don't let the man fuck you! 🙄

I'M GRADUATING AND I NO LONGER GIVE A FUCK ABOUT ANYTHING, SO HERE'S A 4000-WORD PROFANITY-LADEN DIATRIBE

by Kathryn "katgor" Gorski

So I've never submitted to the Omen, and after having a friend come over to my mod to encourage people to do so, I decided to write this shit out. And seriously? The Omen has fallen since my first year here. What happened to stirring up shit all the time? Editorials on how smoking is gross and irresponsible? Authors other than David Axel Kurtz? (I actually read some of his articles, by the way. Some were actually amusing, some actually had some good points. Just saying.) And yeah, your little publication is all based on whatever fuckery people send in, but you could have done a better job of, y'know, encouraging stuff.

Right. I'm Division Free now, but you may not realize that if you saw me around campus because I'm barely here, and for most of this year I was more likely to be locked in a lab at Mount Holyoke. (If you're curious, I ended up studying mostly religion in my Division I, molecular biology and religion for my Division II. My Division III is solidly in the realm of developmental biology and genetics, it was a semi-typical thesis sort of project, but compared to other thesis-writing Mohos I invested *a lot* more time into it. The work was tedious as science often is, but it was a shit ton of fun anyways.)

Back to what I wanted to talk about. After four years of hard work, I'm division motherfucking free, and I rang that motherfucking bell three times so far and I'm going to ring that fucker several times more before I leave here, I can guarantee that. But, slightly obnoxiously, there was all this protest shit going on while my fellow div-frees and I were trying to celebrate and wash ourselves of our academic woes. Now, I first rang the bell after my final meeting on Tuesday. My meeting let out, I ran back to my mod to grab my friend, my camera, and some booze, and I rang that fucker. (It felt absolutely fucking fantastic, by the way.) Two minutes after that, this giant fucking parade comes out clanging pans and other sorts of shit together and it was like, wha? At first it felt nice in a "lol they're all makin' noise for my division free awesome times!!!11-" way. But then it was like: dudes. I'm trying to celebrate the fuck out here. I've written 64 pages on awesome science shit. I'm mostly done with classes. I'm getting the fuck out of here, I'm graduating. *What Hampshire does now*

isn't really my direct business.

And every single ringing that I attended for the next few days, there were Rehamping people on the library lawn, and there was the annoying need to have to be kind of polite and to time the rings with the speakers there. That shit was kind of obnoxious. You couldn't have met at another central location? And having people come up to me and say "you should come to this!!" was a bit annoying. Again: I'm graduating. I'm applying to real life jobs. I'm moving out of the area. I have to pay off the loans I used to pay for this education now. I know a lot of other Div Frees aren't nearly as bitter (well, maybe bitter isn't the right word: cynical? pessimistic?) as I am, but it kind of bothers me that people just assume the cause is worthwhile without examining *why* shit is happening.

When the initial Rehamping meeting about the renovations was going on, I was in the middle of editing my Division III for the last time (and I had been working on that for about 24 hours straight by that point, so uh, I was a bit sleep deprived and only barely capable of editing). Now, that was also the day that the petition was being passed around. A friend gave me a copy, I signed off on one line that seemed reasonable, and I held onto it instead of handing it right back. (I ended up just recycling the thing a few days later.) I wanted the time to think about it and look things up before handing it off to anyone, especially since one of the items on the list was putting a halt on the 3rd floor library renovations.

Regarding those renovations, briefly: I've worked for the Diagnostic Center in the library for most of my Hampshire career. I don't know all the details of the 3rd floor renovations that are slated to happen up there, and some of the details I've been told have been lost in an organic chemistry induced mental fog, but I know that they were being discussed as early as a year ago. Knowing how the IT department is organized, renovations are definitely sorely needed. The Diagnostic Center itself isn't the most ideal space for repair work, and nestling that closer to the rest of IT would allow greater supervision of and discussion with the DC techs (because we've messed around with a number of Hampshire-owned computers

on campus). From what I know, most of what will be affected is the arrangement of IT offices and the training room. And I'm pretty sure the 3rd floor lab is changing, but of ALL the student spaces in the library that need to change? I'd put that one pretty high up, higher than the airport lounge, the bridge, and the lobby most definitely—the only thing I'd put above lab and technology renovations is making the building more handicap accessible. But the more important point: from what I know of the project, **most of the changes that will occur on the third floor will not directly affect students**, but they will affect the staff, who had a major role in discussing the plans, and who do a lot of work here to keep the college running, which ultimately exists for our sakes.

Again, as I said, I wasn't at the meeting so I wasn't able to see if they released additional details or any shit like that. But seeing that item on the list? I was fucking shocked for a second, and I hoped like hell people didn't sign off on it. I mentioned this to the other people present in the room, and one person there had said that she had just signed off on everything and handed it in, and whatever. Recalling this after I had slept gloriously for ages and ages, I kept thinking WHAT THE FUCK.

Dear friends, colleagues, fellow students; I would hope that if you're going to sign a petition, you would *make sure that you know what you're signing off on*. Now, I'm a bit of a weirdo and I actually skim through and read parts of the EULAs when I get new software and things along those lines, so maybe my own example isn't the best. But if someone hands me a petition and asks me to support the point by a signature, I like to know what the fuck I'm actually supporting. I'm not going to sign something without asking questions, or without knowing where things are going, or what the point of the petition is. And frankly, the petition that was going around was pretty fucking vague.

And just to make myself clear, it's not like I think this shit isn't messed up. But I didn't know all the facts, and I still don't know all the facts, and the reason I find it messed up is because the administration didn't even really inform *Admissions*, nevermind the rest of the student body, and not because of the plans themselves. To a point, I agree with Ralph in that some parts of the project are fairly simple and renovation-ish. And from what I've heard through friends and Hampshire gossip, the faculty isn't necessarily pissed off about this, and they're also a significant part of the Hampshire community. (I also remember seeing a comment from a student somewhere

saying that the Arts Village has the ugliest buildings on campus. I think they're the most interesting and visually pleasing, to be honest, and I love walking through there. But anyways, that's just a really random point.)

But I also think I run counter to a lot of the Hampshire community in that I want to see the way we think about Admissions change, and on both sides this has been an issue in the debate. A lot of the problems we have are well publicized on the campus: low retention rate, low satisfaction with the first year program, etc. And there's stuff that's there that contributes to retention and student quality but isn't really talked about: that so many students hand in work late and don't take their classes seriously, and our overworked and underpaid faculty; all of which leads towards lower quality and fewer meetings between advisors and advisees. And that last one is, by far, the core of a Hampshire education. It's how you pull together a concentration if you don't know where the fuck to go, it's how you get guidance for independent work, it's where you get advice. And a well-prepared and focused student will require less of this than someone who is ill-prepared for a college education. I don't think the proposed Division I program does much to alleviate the preparation problems, or the distribution problems, and I think the independent study requirement might be a clusterfuck waiting to happen... but I could go into this for a while, and I'm trying to resist that (I'm going on long enough here). But really, I think Hampshire could be an amazing fucking place for someone who may have been otherwise bound for, say, Harvard. Someone who is academically inclined, driven, focused, talented. I'm not sure if we have enough of that here. And just because someone is academically successful in a traditional manner doesn't mean that they have to be any less radical—the two aren't mutually exclusive. These students are capable of coexisting with the nontraditional students we have around here, too.

Admissions is essential because our current model of financing requires tuition payments for the school to run, and our alumni don't really donate in any large sort of amount. And there need to be changes in admissions. I haven't been on an admissions tour in several years, but I've heard mixed reviews. Moving the admissions office to make it a bigger part of campus, to connect prospective students more tightly to the campus and the academic flavor, I believe, is a good step. One of the strongest points of Hampshire is its academic program, even though I wish that there were more supervision along the

way. Improving admissions could potentially have a huge ripple effect through the college: new families that could become major donors, potential alumni that make a difference in the world and freely associate their names with Hampshire as a fabulous institution and not as one full of lazy fucks who can just get by, alumni who might make shit tons of money and become mad philanthropists and donate money, and the ripple effect in the academic quality.

And seriously: Hampshire needs to stop being associated with just film, photo, and writing. The structure of Hampshire is great for learning in the natural sciences, our cognitive science program fucking rocks, and our social sciences are pretty sweet from what I know of them. There are around 40 Hampshire NS Div IIIs this year (of about 350 graduating students I believe? not too sure), including myself. I'm too lazy to source this, but I've heard multiple times that Hampshire graduates more people in NS than the number of incoming students who expect to concentrate in NS. That there are so few people who come in wanting to study science is just fucking sad. At Mount Holyoke, a third of students, or about 180 per year, major in math and science (at least according to numbers I've estimated from their website). There's a lot of shit you can study at Hampshire, which is part of the reason why I think the academic program is so fabulously strong. Showing that, again, will help change the perception of Hampshire, which will help alter admissions, etc.

Hampshire is often described in its literature as an *experimenting* college, not an *experimental* college. If you read the original essay that lead to Hampshire's founding (not the book! and it's available at <http://www.hampshire.edu/archives/files/NewColl.pdf>), it's actually hella hilarious considering the issues that the school is going through now. There were some pretty radical ideas included about having a fairly high student to faculty ratio, and to depend mostly upon tuition for payment. Now, as I'm sure time has shown, turns out that individual majors and dethroning the course require *significant* work from the faculty in order to ensure that shit is actually getting done, and that it would actually be worthwhile to confer a degree to someone based on that work, nevermind the work that goes into each divisional benchmark and course evaluations.

Now, I know a lot of people don't like Ralph. I feel rather neutral regarding our president. His writing is hella fucking pretentious (which I find hilarious and kind of enjoy reading for that reason) but I think that a lot

of people just don't bother listening to him at all, even though he is totally capable of making good points about Hampshire, its future, its governance, whatever. I was weeding through some of Ralph's writing and I found this quote applicable to my discussion at hand:

"Hampshire's orientation must be towards an ever-evolving future. In order for Hampshire to remain the vibrant institution its founders envisioned and in which its students have flourished, the college must be open to change—in some instances, radical change. Change is inevitable; responsible persons will want to play their part in the changing world—shaping, influencing, critiquing, resisting—optimally prepared via their education. A liberal arts education is a thing of change itself that evolves by our asking questions not only of the "content" but of the forms and modes of its delivery. Are we living up to its highest values? How can we render today's liberal arts education better than those of the past? How can we persuade more individuals, at home and abroad, of its value—proving that value—and how can we offer access to more individuals once persuaded?"

(From <http://www.hampshire.edu/offices/10184.htm>)

It's all nice and wonderful to want to live up to Hampshire's founding ideals, but there have to be changes. It wasn't sustainable. And as in the literature surrounding the founding of the college, the radical and experimental notions reach down to the infrastructure of the college itself. Some parts work better than others. They are just as subject to experimentation as the rest of the school (although it's definitely much more limited by budget). And radical change could potentially be having a few courses graded instead of evaluated, things along those lines. It is amongst a plethora of choices to be considered.

And you know what? Hampshire is still what you make of it, and like any college, it will always be so. I did two fucking years of lab work that I loved, and that's because I had the guts to talk to a professor at Mount Holyoke and ask to get into his lab. I took advanced course work that I technically may not have been qualified for, but I proved that I had the experience and I made it work (without setting the rest of the class behind, mind you, I took very few classes at Hampshire but I've heard quite often that's a big problem).

If it wasn't clear by this point, I've actually done quite a bit of reading into Hampshire's academic structure, history, blah blah blah. So, why don't I give a fuck? Why have I waited until now to get all of this out of my system?

Bulleted list go go go.

- Most of the decisions will not directly affect me. As for those that indirectly affect me, I trust that the administration will do what's best for the college. Why do I trust them there? Because their jobs fucking depend on the school's existence and reputation.
- I'm 21. I arrived at Hampshire for my first year when I was 17. Before entering college my biggest life experience was... well, I don't even fucking know, but I can guarantee you that's probably lame. It's not like I don't think -young people- can make valuable contributions to the way things are run, and that they can institute awesome changes, but knowing how I think and how my friends think? It's all short term. Hampshire's a young school, and a change in something like Div I, or the configuration of the library, or the location of the admissions office, can have major ripples for the history and reputation of the college. Just saying.
- While I will be associated with Hampshire at some level for the rest of my life, I have only been here for four years. What goes on at the campus, for the most part, only affects me for those four years. There's only a few things I actually care about when it comes to Hampshire: that it challenges its students academically and has a degree of academic integrity, and that it survives as an institution unlike, say, Antioch.
- I can tell you all about my fly metamorphosis or genetics, but I can't tell you shit about running a college. I know there are people who study higher education here, but I highly doubt that's the majority. Again, it's not like people who have no experience have no good ideas... but all of the rippling effects of instituting those ideas may not be clear to someone without that experience.
- If the administration consulted with the student body or had an all community vote for *every mother-fucking decision that had to be made shit would never get done*. Changes have been made without student input before. More changes will be made without student input. Some shit you don't have control over. Fucking deal with it.

The system we have now isn't necessarily sustainable, but I'm skeptical if the direction students *want* to go into would be any better. I'm not saying that I'm not skeptical of what the administration is setting forth, but I'm more likely to trust them based on their experience, for the

same reasons why I've been apathetic towards academic campus politics.

In another way, this is how I've thought about it: I am paying for a service, even if my payment comes from me indirectly through grants and loans. By accepting this service and offering this payment and forming a contract of sorts, I have also accepted that this service is not perfect, that I have responsibilities in this relationship, and that I do *not* have complete control. Is it a non-Hampshire way of thinking about it? Possibly, but my education did turn out to be very Hampshire.

But I will be paying off my loans for the next however many years for this education. *I was here to get a damn fucking good education*, and I made the best of it. And while education and community are intertwined quite often, whether it's through the spaces developed on campus or with academic programs that help students to network and just make friends, I'm paying for a degree. I'm paying to take courses, where I fulfill one side of an academic contract by producing academic work. When the work I have completed is judged to be satisfactory to finish a course, and the courses I've taken and the projects I've completed are sufficient to be granted a degree, I will be conferred the baccalaureate of arts. Now that I've all but gotten it, I just don't care much anymore.

Don't let this make you think that I don't like this place. To be clear, I didn't come to Hampshire because of the activism on campus, or because you could do a shit ton of independent studies. I came because I wasn't really what I wanted to study at the end of high school, and I had been kicking around ideas from theatre to physics when I was initially applying to college. Hampshire seemed like the best place to do a synthesis of several fields: no strict major requirements means you can really focus in on a few individual things, and the five college consortium meant the possibilities were crazy awesome. The campus culture seemed to mesh with me better than other places I had been admitted to, not necessarily because people were hella fucking liberal, but because everyone else was kind of weird and artsy like I was at the time. I really have no regrets in coming here. I really don't think I would have grown this much at any place other than Hampshire. There was a lot less pressure to perform, and I got to skip out of a lot of bullshit prerequisite classes by sweet talking professors all over the valley. I'm applying to graduate school soon, for a PhD in molecular biology. I was a bit of a problem child in high school so I didn't have high ambitions starting in college. If you told

me that I was going to apply to grad school for *science* to my face my first year I would have laughed my fucking ass off. (I was admitted off the waitlist too, which I feel is somewhat ironic considering my current oddly high-achieving academic record.) And I've met some of the best friends I've ever made at Hampshire. But I feel like I can honestly say that the administration and the facilities played a minimal role in my happiness and growth here. I grew because of the friends I made, and the coursework I did here made me generally pretty damn happy, because it was hella interesting.

The biggest disappointment I've had with Hampshire is that I never felt *welcome* to speak up like this. Politics here are so emotionally charged, which isn't necessarily always a bad thing. (The only things I've been able to emotionally invest myself in lately are articles relating to my Division III and scientific literature relating to grad school applications. My friends have heard me ramble on about the science of stem cells or fly metamorphosis, but it's not exactly the kind of stuff that gets a big audience.) But you gotta have some rationality sometimes. I wonder what would happen if people stepped back, thought about things for a little while, and thought twice about things before moving into straight outrage. (Honestly: my bigger mental question is "where the fuck do they find the TIME to protest shit!?" How the fuck have you people not been busy with a Hampshire education?)

I fucking love our motto, I will always love the motto, and I remember loving the motto the moment I heard it when I was selecting colleges to apply to. *Non satis scire*, to know is not enough. There are many ways to interpret the phrase, clearly. You can be fed facts and history and books as much as you want, and that is an important part of an education. But it's just bullshit if you don't question it. And that goes beyond all the bullshit you're studying in class. That kind of thinking needs to carry on into life, and to around the Hampshire campus. Everyone has a bias. Don't take the facts at face value. Read, think, then act. Don't just run out and protest because some person with a sign on their shirt told you to. Don't just sign a petition because it was placed in front of you. The biggest thing I learned at Hampshire was to question everything, and I mean every-fucking-thing. I seriously hope I'm not the only one who has left with that message. 🙏

Daniel's Ending Rant Number 1:

How to Work in Groups / Be a Better Person

By Daniel Eareckson

It has come to my attention that students at Hampshire don't really understand a few things about working in groups. Let me remind people that I am aware that I am not the best myself at following these, but I have hope that you are all better people than I am.

One, group dynamics seem to work best when people are happy. ... is this a difficult concept? Have you never been in a group of happy polite people all excited about doing something? Wasn't that nice, refreshing and productive? Now think about a group of people who have anger issues and don't listen to each other. Is my point made, I doubt it.

However I'll drop the snide rhetorical questions. I have worked with many groups on campus with varied populations, and I would like to say something to each of you. Listen to each other. Hampshire students care, a lot, and in general are actually working towards what they feel is the best outcome. If you can acknowledge this, you begin to see that the people you are arguing with are not just stupid donkeys but are also often working for a cause themselves.

I have never met anyone on this campus that doesn't want a better world. You all are just too thick to see it. Stop and smell the roses and look at each other as humans not horrible creatures out to eat your soul.

Just because your opinion is LOUDER than any other doesn't make you right. The fact that you have 200 people agreeing with you doesn't make you a good person, especially when you have lied to them. Simply due to the fact that you happen to have one valid point doesn't make all other points invalid.

If you are all polite, and listen to one another, you might yet learn something at this college. Even if you're graduating in 2 weeks. Stop and listen to people you have assumed are not worth the time, and maybe, just maybe you'll start finding that better world you scream about on the library lawn. 🙏

Last Thoughts as I Leave Hampshire

By DeeDee Desir

I had a conversation with one of my sisters. She asked me a question. “Dominique, what does it mean to be a leader?” I thought about it and said....

“For me it means knowing yourself! Knowing, how you as an individual can help or hinder your ability to serve. You must understand yourself before you can truly serve in any capacity, because we are all leaders.”

The two key concepts I always take with me as I assume any leadership position are “knowing” and “serving.” How I came to understand these ideas was in part due to Hampshire. A lot of know that serving may hurt you as an individual. And sometimes in order for a community to live, part of you will die, but what you gain by serving that community will be invaluable. Serving requires building a reciprocal relationship; meaning that those you serve you see them as equal, as leaders, and you are willing to learn from. In the process of serving I lost a lot of personal time, but time was never wasted. At first I served in order to learn more about a community that I had transferred into from Palm Beach Community College in August of 2008.

I remember having a dialogue with some hall-mates first year students about where we all came from and where we all were headed. The conversation did lead us into talks about how we can change society. Two things that I took from that interaction: that the dialogue at Hampshire infused personal experience into the academic world. You see that was new to me...I had never see personal belief being driven by academics.

The second thing I learned from the conversation was how action oriented it made me. See the conversation gave me more. It was exciting, it was active; at the same time confusing and draining. It pushed me and changed me by placing me in a position of openness. And while the topic of the conversation was changing our society, at the moment it seemed too grand. So, I thought I'd start my belief in changing society by starting to change Hampshire through servant leadership.

The positions I held and my involvement can speak volumes, but they don't characterize me as a person. I would like to use this opportunity to speak from the heart and shape my character with words. I hope to complete my time here by sharing how profoundly a place like Hampshire can change you. 🙏

Daniel's ending rant 2:

Hints on How Not to be a Moron at
Hampshire

By Daniel Eareckson

Hampshire is a fantastic place. Full of opportunity, love, sex, and inclusiveness. It is also a school, go figure. I am planning on giving some good advice in this one at least, but might get distracted again. It is also full of crazy, which is good. However some crazy expresses itself as pigheadedness.

So some hints: Hampshire students really like complaining. While people can find good things to complain about, once Hampshire students start, it snowballs. The underlying theme of the complaint is generally lost within the first day, and after that its all angry horribly mutated ratings from people who never stopped to check the facts.

So next time someone hands you a petition, take it with you, find someone who the petition is about, and ask them about it. Ask SEVERAL people about it. Do not under any circumstances believe whoever is handing you a petition. They could be your hall-mate, friend, anyone, they most likely don't have the right information. Many people on campus who dish out tasty tainted tidbits of information do so for either their own amusement or for their personal advancement in what they see as the current power structure. I can name a few, but perhaps I'll wait till next year.

Now, most people who petition and gather angrily on the library lawn are there for all the right reasons. (See other article) They want people to make the right decisions, and the decisions that will make this place a great and glorious home for all. However, most angry people on the quad take it a little too far, and haven't checked the facts.

Second, while I am glad people will always fight for what they believe, there is one more thing we all as students need to understand. We're STUDENTS. Students are not in charge in any way shape or form. Yes we pay to go here. We pay for the Opportunity to go here. If we were paying to make this place our paradise, we would be the trustees. We're not. we have no actual say in what the college does. Congratulations. Yes, we can get them to do what we want them to if we yell enough. Shouldn't we instead try to enact change by reason, logic, and intelligence instead of FEAR and ANGER? Just checking.

Well that's all for this one, love you all, but be smart, check your sources, and look even closer when people look incensed. 🙏

Omenlove

By Victoria Quine

Here's the funny thing: as I picked up the most recent Omen, I felt something I have not yet felt when thinking about how I'm leaving this god forsaken hellhole. I felt this pang of sadness. I truly and honestly believe that The Omen is the greatest thing about Hampshire College, and I'll stand by that until...well I'm not sure. Certainly I'll stand by it throughout any and all arguments that may arise, but if it comes down to physical torture, I might cave. Might not. Really depends on how stubborn I'm feeling that day.

My point is that at this point I cannot for the life of me think of anything I'm going to miss about Hampshire except for The Omen. (Sorry, circus¹.) Because I like lists, here is a list of things I love about the Omen:

- The fact that the recent issue had 10 articles by Kristian (tl;dr)

- I believe the cover of said issue is Panda stabbing Daniel who is bleeding love. *cue Leona Lewis*

- The Omen is often full of useless drivel, hate, incoherently formed, half-assed excuses for 'articles', last-minute scrawled 'illustrations' and other bullshit.

- Layout is inconsistent at best

- Layout has food (even though I never arrive in time for said food)

- When I submitted my first Omen article and it got published, I was so proud I actually told my parents. HA. (No but seriously, in my defense, it was like, my first week of college and I was still under the impression that I had things worth contributing to the world.)

- Anyone can publish ANYTHING. Naïve kids still shiny-eyed and wet behind the ears with leftover high-school-graduation-placenta as well as angry, bitter, Div Frees. And occasionally alumni as well!

- Because in spite of the fact that no one reads his shit, David continues to publish prolifically. (Oh! But I almost read your entire last article! I got far more than halfway through it.²)

- 'Cuz no matter how bummed out I get, I know The Omen loves me. It may not respect me, and it's still keeping me a secret from its family, but it loves me. It makes me feel like a real woman, you know? And, look, I know it's not perfect, but no one is. It's just trying its best and I want to be there for it. I just picture us growing old to-

gether...gently caressing its age-worn pages, making love slowly in the bed we bought when we first got together...

- Actually, let's face it. The Omen doesn't make love. It skullfucks.

- With consent, of course.

- Absolutely everything

I've concluded the only thing that will bring me back to Hampshire is the Omen. Which is to say, if the Omen makes it another 5 or 10 years or something and the editors decide that it needs another birthday party like for its 15th birthday party where alumni come back and there's a pig roast and bad beer, I'll be there. Maybe slightly less bitter. We'll see.

Right, so the reason I actually wrote this is 'cuz when I was reading the last Omen, I got all sad and secretly mopey that I never had the chance to write a final article, and that I'd feel all incomplete without that. Except The Omen fucking rocks and was all, "Victoria, I know what we have is real. Please, please write for me one last time even though it's clearly not thought out and you keep drifting off from your original intent and no one actually cares what you have to say. But write it down and give it to me." And I did. I gave it hard.

With consent.

So here it is, my final love letter to The Omen.

Dear my most fickle love,

Balls. I forgot what I wanted to say. I actually had something sorta nice to say except then I looked outside and there was a sign about the parade at 4 that's happening to protest the restructuring of Hampshire that no one was informed of...

OHRIGHT! Now I remember.

Dear my most fickle love,

I love you. Should you ever again decide you want me, I'll be back in your pages. And I know this because I know you won't want me and that's about 90% of the attraction. (The other 10% is that I just like paper a lot.) I just needed to let you know that I think what we've had is something special and real and fiery and would probably clear right up with some heavy antibiotics. But I'll always hold you in my fondest memories.

Love always,

Victoria 🐼

¹To be fair, I'll be doing circus outside of Hampshire. I'll be teaching or taking classes or living in some hippie commune where we wake up every morning in a cuddle puddle in the trapeze net. A completely uncensored publication is going to be much more difficult to find post-Hamp.

²But I did read all of your footnotes. Much appreciated.

Things I've Learned About Hampshire

By David Axel Kurtz

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I haven't learned a great deal at college. But I've learned plenty about this little place.

And what kind of love would The Omen have for you, if I did not pass along what I have learned?

Godspeed, Hampshire.

-daxel

-Don't make your hobby into your Div III.

-You can graduate having taken only independent studies – no classes

-You can take two, even three independent studies over a single Jan-term

-If, on an independent study form, you circle the "100-level" label, the independent study will satisfy Div I distribution requirements.

-The same is true for "300-level" and a Div III Higher Learning Activity

-People who are not Hampshire faculty cannot record a Div III pass on The Hub. Therefore, they automatically approve your pass. (We call them 'passive members')

-You can audit a Five College class, and then get an independent study from a Hampshire professor which gives you credit for taking that class. Thus to get into classes which are full... or ignore the Amherst 2-course limit.

-Any professor can supervise any Div III, regardless of its content, or their academic specialty.

-You can title your Div III anything. Even memes!

-There are predesigned majors at Hampshire. They are Film/Photo, Theater, Music, Dance, Studio Art, Creative Writing, and possibly others.

-HOWEVER, you can study any of these subjects without entering into the given program – thus freeing yourself of the necessity of taking major requirements.

-There are also 'pre-graduate majors' at Hampshire. These are created by students who need to take classes based upon grad-school requirements. This is why, in a given calculus class, there will be one student who actually cares about calculus, and ten who are just pre-meds trying to pad a transcript.

-The result? Find out which classes are related to a pregrad major... and stay away from them like the plague.

-300-level classes are not necessarily harder or more interesting than 200- or 100-level classes. In fact, many 300-level classes are designed for Div III students who have little interest in things outside their Div III. Hence, they are even EASIER than their lower-level compatriots.

-Bringing food to your final meeting is important. Bringing it to your signing meeting is a hundred times moreso. (And obviously by 'food' I mean 'booze')

-There are certain faculty at Hampshire who are powerful, and some who are scary. Having one of these people on your committee might make your meetings a little rocky... but it will knock over any hurdle you come across, that the school puts in your way.

-While in a Study Abroad program, you need to take classes. While on Field Study, you do not.

-If you have enough classes to pass whatever Div you're in, you can go whole semesters without taking any classes.

-If you are planning on doing the equivalent of two classes' work on a given project, make sure you get TWO independent studies in that project. Or you will waste a ton of time, for no reward.

-This is because, for all intents and purposes, HAMPSHIRE HAS A CREDIT SYSTEM.

-Some professors will write you bad evaluations saying that you didn't pass their course. But since they wrote you an eval, you get 'credit' for the course. Twelve such 'failing evals' = passing Div II.

-At Hampshire, 'Academic Probation' means precisely jack.

-'Multi-Cultural Perspectives' has no set definition. You can ignore it completely without punishment.

-You can turn anything into Community Service hours. Anything.

-You can turn anything into a Learning Activity, so long as you find someone to write it up for you. If you get your lover to critique your fuck technique, then bring the write-up to Central Records, that could be one of your Div III Higher Learning Activities.

-You can TA an EPEC class as a Higher Learning Activity.

Even a class you taught yourself. For epic meta points.

-Nobody ever checks whether or not a group is sub free. There's basically nothing you can do to lose sub-free status. So if you want a mod, pledge sub free.

-Identity-based housing is given when students raise a fuss. Which means, usually, getting their parents to raise a fuss. Get a mod group together, find something you have in common (ugly beards, 4chan addiction, &c), then get your parents to start calling the school. Pretty soon, it's Prescott lofts for everyone.

-If your committee says that they will pass you only if you do more work after the pass, that's when you look them in the eye and say, "No, I'm done. Pass me now." Unless they are willing to fail you, you will pass.

-You will never be failed at Hampshire unless you believe you deserved it. If you feel yourself worthy of passing, and act as such, you will pass every time.

-Failing a student usually hurts the professor more than the student. Especially if it's a Div III.

-Many Div IIIs can be done in a week – and are.

-You cannot do more than one Div III. If you want to do two things, or study two projects, or more – be prepared to call one of them your Div III, and get absolutely no support or credit for the rest.

-It is very easy to steal food from SAGA. Also silverware, bowls, machinery...

-You never need to bring a pencil to class. I have never once been to a class where there wasn't a writing implement somewhere in the classroom, left behind. If I looked hard enough.

-Every one of the Five College libraries has a design flaw that allows you to sneak out books.

-In the case of certain colleges, this is also very, very, very true of DVDs

-Every time someone on campus orders mugs or t-shirts or something, there are invariably a few hundred left over.

-At Hampshire, if they're giving away one, you can always take at least three.

-Free boxes in the laundry room. Free boxes in the laundry room. Free boxes in the laundry room.

-Start up a bunch of student groups. You can get money for shit.

-Start up a bunch of student groups. You can get money for shit.

-Start up a bunch of student groups. You can get money for shit.

-The FiCom funding request form utilizes no form of digital signature algorithm. This means you can submit funding requests in anybody's name.

-There is nothing you cannot get funded. Like a few

thousand dollars worth of gourmet food for you and your friends: no sweat.

-If you want it, but don't have a student group, find one to request it. The more old and popular the group (viz Excalibur) the more likely the request will be funded.

-FiCom is answerable to nobody. They can ban you from signing for student groups at any time for any reason.

-Getting b&c doesn't change anything. Certainly not your ability to spend SAF funds.

-Most student group stuff is stored in people's mods. If it wasn't, it would have gotten stolen long before.

-If you buy food, return it, and use the credit to buy alcohol, you can then get reimbursed for the food you bought. This is how Hampshire buys students alcohol all the time.

-At the end of the semester, 'non-permanent equipment' becomes essentially nonexistent. Enjoy.

-If a student group dissolves, 'permanent equipment' becomes essentially nonexistent. Enjoy.

-The student activities fund is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is spent in incredibly stupid ways. If you want there to be more money – make sure the money we have isn't squandered shamelessly. (Or make sure that the squandering is of benefit to you... same thing)

-Everyone drops out of Community Council. So if you submit your name as a candidate, you will eventually get upjumped onto Council. Even if nobody voted for you.

-The only problem with this is that you end up on council. Which nobody should want. Ever.

-If someone tries to make you feel beholden to them for participating in their student group, or for sharing the fruits of the SAF... explain to them why they are full of shit. Then eat all their food.

-If someone says that you offended their enlightened political beliefs, apologize – then walk away; they aren't worth your time. They just want attention. Silly children.

-If you say that you're <x racial group>, nobody can argue with you.

-If you tell the college that you're <x non-white racial group>, you can attend Hampshire basically for free.

-Any time someone uses their race, creed, class, color, &c, to support their argument, they are de facto making an ad hominem argument against you. Tell them that they are wasting your time. Or: ignore them, and leave.

-Hampshire makes everyone much more liberal... or much more conservative. People say things at Hampshire they would never say off-campus, to both ends of the political spectrum.

-Don't argue with someone's stated sexuality. It usually interferes with your ability to fuck them (in contradiction thereto).

- You can walk around campus drinking if you do it from an unmarked container. Like, legally.
- If you have an off-campus sticker, you can park anywhere. ANYWHERE. For ANY LENGTH OF TIME. Even handicapped spaces don't seem to be a problem. And you'll never get ticketed. (Which never ceases to surprise me, but seems to be true.)
- If you get pulled over for drunk driving at Hampshire, just say you were driving from another part of campus. Therefore you never actually went onto a public road. Thus are very hard to prosecute.
- If you bring a parking ticket to the pubs, and say 'yeah, this is wrong' without question, it will get squashed.
- If you try to argue the validity, not of a charge, but of the law – NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
- You can find great stuff in mod storage closets at the beginning of the year. Like that 1965 Gibson I found.
- If your mod is broken – REPORT IT. And keep reporting it until they fix it. (Even if this means they have to buy you thousands of dollars of new kitchen equipment – they will.)
- If your stove is broken, they are required to give you free SAGA until it gets fixed.
- If you get a doctor to say that SAGA is incompatible with your dietary needs, you can get off the meal plan. You can even have a full-sized refrigerator in your Dakin single!
- Good luck getting it up the stairs, but otherwise, go to.
- If you have a pet on campus, the only punishment likely

- to occur is that you'll have lots and lots of friends.
- If you are a dude walking around MoHo, and look sketchy, they will eventually call the cops on you. This is annoying, but nonthreatening... and makes for funny stories!
- It's easy to get locked into a library overnight. Especially MoHo and Smith.
- Almost anything that is designed for faculty can be attended by students. They will often talk about students in such meetings, which is fascinating. There is also quite often food. And usually beer.
- If you want something at Hampshire, find a psychological rationale for needing it. Then demand it. This works pretty much all the time.
- What the school tells students, what it tells alums and parents, and what it tells faculty/staff... are all completely different.
- HAMPSHIRE IS NOT OUT OF MONEY. Our financial situation isn't bad. We are among the most expensive schools in the universe, and we offer fewer services than most schools whose names don't end with "Online." Every year our endowment is growing, as are our investments (both in land and securities). So if they try to say, 'we can't afford this' – THEY ARE FULL OF SHIT.
- Once again: if they say that they are out of money, DON'T BELIEVE THEM.
- If you learn something new, or have a good idea, pass it along to the community.
- The Omen loves you. 🤖

Poetry Corner

By Daniel Eareckson

(1)

student groups flourish
students are still rioting
no thanks to some folk

(2)

oh division three
you're not about one's subject
you just teach us stuff

By David Axel Kurtz

the stones of Hampshire
cold brickwork in a steel shear
and green grass, and sky

Reflections on Hampshire

By Victoria Quine

As a not-so-recent Div Free, I'd like to reflect for a moment on Div III and my life experience these several weeks past it. I remember a time when the bell wasn't clanging every two minutes (I'm not kidding, I just timed it), when I was living on the second floor of the library on that sofa by the stairs, my headphones blasting white noise. In those times, I was immersed in thinking, writing, reading, and getting distracted by reading about brain development not actually relevant to what I'm doing but still absolutely fascinating nonetheless. I'd often forget there was something else in the world until my stomach grumbled so loudly that I'd sharply look up embarrassed, race down to the Bridge, and devour lunch outdoors so I'd at least get some fresh air.

Since handing in my tome of a Div III, my life has drastically changed. Writing this is the first time I've opened Word in almost exactly 4 weeks, I've not set foot on the second floor of the library, I can proudly yank on the rope by the library whenever I damn well please (speaking of which, the bell going right now was about 18 minutes since the last one....oh wait, there's another one.), and I've been watching Buffy. A lot of Buffy. Before this, I'd seen one episode when I was home sick in high school. I didn't really get it....some kid was a sniper in a bell tower and Buffy punched people a lot. I was also really sick. Anyway, so now that I'm armed with a college degree, I started lingering by my friends when they were casually watching an episode. By now, we're hooked. I had a hard time watching the first season since I wasn't that into it, but we're on season four now and things are getting AWESOME. (Except I missed the end half of season three, so I'm catching up on that too.) (Bell's going again.) I had mixed feelings about Angel, I adore Spike, I sobbed my heart out when Oz cheated on Willow. (It was bad... my housemate came downstairs to find me hiccuping and

Writing this is the first time I've opened Word in almost exactly 4 weeks.

wiping away the downpour of tears. Obviously she was really concerned and was immediately by my side asking what happened. I managed to choke out, "Oz...h-h-he was such a j-j-JERK!" before starting up all over again. She laughed and stayed to watch the end of the episode.) Point is, I've come to really enjoy this show. Makes me love Joss Whedon even harder. (Bell's going again.)

However, Angel is- how can I put this delicately?- a prissy bitch. Know who else is a prissy bitch? Edward Cullen. At one moment, Angel was sulking in the shadows with his angsty face and I just started laughing because (bell again) it occurred to me that he and Edward would have the most angsty, sulky, emo sex ever.

Obviously, I assumed someone must have written some slash fic about it. Was it going to be focusing on whiny monologues? Would it instead be littered with phrases like "angelic face" (lulz) "marble-like skin" and "irresistible gaze"? Or -here I shivered with delight- would Angel be in soul-less mode and be all "EDWARD I WILL FUCK YOUR SHIT UP...LITERALLY. GET THE LUBE." And Edward'd be all "omg y am i sooooo uhtrackted 2 u. u r soooo sxy nd im so sad." And Angel'd be all "STFU YOU PRISSY DIAMOND" followed by shag-gings aplenty and then Edward's violent death.

As it turns out, rule 34 is broken. I was unable to find any Edward and Angel slash fic. None. There is, weirdly, a lot of Harry Potter/Edward Cullen slash fic (...? I actually can't even imagine how that would go) but for some reason, the internet's not too keen on vamp on vamp action. Upon hearing this, mod 71 screamed at me, "RULE 35. MAKE IT," but I'm lazy and won't. Plus, submissions were due today. So unless someone at layout gets inspired and writes some, I'm leaving it in your hands, Hampshire. Write me some awful/awesome/dirty/angsty Edward/Angel slash fic and put it on the internet.

Oh yeah, and because of Hampshire I learned things and stuff. 🙄

Goodbye Hampshire, It's Been a Wild Ride

By Arthur Pennant

I haven't contributed to The Omen nearly as much as I'd have liked while at Hampshire. That's one of my regrets about my time here, actually. My foremost regret is undoubtedly coming to Hampshire in the first place. My secondmost is not leaving. Frankly, while the adults here have mostly been wonderful, I'm not convinced that most of my peers have grown up beyond the age of 12. That said, I've made it through four years here. I'm thrilled to finally be graduating, and, while I probably would have been happier elsewhere, inertia and my own stubbornness meant that I was going to stick it out. So, now that I'm going, I have some things I want to say to, well pretty much everything.

HALA and SOURCE:

Screw you both. There, I've been waiting 4 years to say that publicly, and it feels great to get it off my chest. HALA sees nothing wrong with speakers who advocate violence, or a campaign of harassment against animal researchers. SOURCE has a habit of attempting to intimidate people by measures ranging from anonymous complaints to the administration to loud, repeated accusations of racism to harassment and assault. As bad as it is when you try to change administration policy this way, it's worse when you try to silence the opinions of people who disagree with you.

Other Student Activists:

I've been able to ignore most of you, and I appreciate it. Students for Justice in Palestine, I still disagree with your goals, but you've been willing to engage with me, even when I've been dismissive of you. You've been open, friendly, and serious, and I've come to respect you. Re-Rad, I agree with your goals broadly, and I appreciate Digitizing Hampshire. That said, I went to a few of your meetings, I felt like my perspective was entirely ignored, and that you were protesting the administration for the sake of protesting. To the students who organized last week to save ASH—I was skeptical at first. Honestly, I assumed you were just looking for an excuse to pick a fight with the administration, but after talking with you, I've come around. So, to the ASH protesters, SJP, and Re-Rad, thank you, you've partially redeemed my view of student activists.

Hipsters:

You know, until the Huffington Post article, I didn't realize there was a name for you. I just called you, with your pride in smoking, vacuous, self-important majors snotty music tastes, postmodernist political beliefs and pseudo-commitment to various aspects of "social justice," as well as your fashionable contempt for the foundations of learning, "typical Hampshire students." Thanks to the self-important hipster who wrote the top definition on Urban Dictionary, I now know that you have a name. And thanks to the Huffington post, I know that I will never have to deal with so many of you in one place again.

My friends and acquaintances:

I only really had a handful of people I'd call friends at Hampshire, but I've met a lot of awesome people. I regret not getting to know you better. To those of you who are also graduating, I wish you the best. To those of you who aren't good luck finishing. And thank you all for supporting me, listening to me, and helping me survive the wonderland that is Hampshire.

Everybody I met in ASH and the Lizard Lounge:

I love you all. Pretty much without exception, if I met you in one of these places, you're in the minority of people who didn't annoy the hell out of me. And you were probably capable of holding a conversation without referencing pot, politics, or critical theory.

Hexter:

I give you credit for remembering my first conversation with you better than I did. I know you have a difficult job, and I appreciate that you usually try to communicate with students. That said, there's a culture at Hampshire that I really dislike, a belief that one can get away with anything as long as the community accepts it. This also leads to a siege mentality among Hampshire students, a need to protect their "rights" against arbitrary outside norms. Loud music, indoor smoking, and freedom from discipline are "rights" must be protected at all costs. The political climate is part and parcel of this. So let me say: so long as student activities fees are being used to pay speakers who advocate violence, as long as identity-based housing merits more protection than sub-free housing,

as long as SOURCE can get away with intimidation with tacit or outright administration support, Hampshire will not get a dime from me in alumni donations.

Professors:

With only one exception, those of you I've had have all been excellent. You've always gone above and beyond what's contractually required (I know of a few here who don't, which makes you all the better). You've been available to talk and willing to help with problems not related to your classes, and you've been understanding and supportive when I've had difficulties.

Media Services, John & John, Lemmelson, CORC:

You've been wonderful, I wish I'd taken more advantage of the resources you offered

Librarians:

I haven't needed help with library related stuff all that often, but you've been very helpful when I have. And as ugly as the library is, I'm going to miss all the books, and the Five College Library System.

Joel:

I know that I tended to blow you off and unilaterally decided I didn't need your help, but you were helpful getting me settled in early on.

Linda and Renee:

I'm sorry my half-semester experiment with living on campus didn't work out, but thank you for working with me on this.

Paula, Jean, Marie, Central Records, and any other staff I may have forgotten:

Thank you all. You've been wonderful.

The Children's Center:

Thank you for helping me fulfill my CSR requirement, and helping me with my Div III.

The Omen:

I'm sorry I haven't submitted more. If I hadn't been so busy, I'd've made a final cartoon or two. Any rate, thanks for providing a forum for open discussion, and keep up the good work.

Arthur Pennant (still legally Luke Kundl Pinette) 🐑

Poetry Corner

version 2.0

By Daniel Eareckson

(1)

Hampshire College Life
We care, love, fight, and make up.
But do we grow much?

(2)

love is simple here
when we find someone we love
we freak the fuck out

By Julia Mattes

pots pans banging loud
protesting anything new
all students outraged



Comics

By Athena Currier







OMEN